



## Supreme Court of Illinois

September 17, 2018

### **TRAVELING BICENTENNIAL OF ILLINOIS LAW EXHIBIT TO DEBUT AT COLLEGE OF DUPAGE**

The traveling Bicentennial of Illinois Law Exhibit will be on display beginning Friday, September 21, 2018 at the Student Service Center at the College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Blvd. in Glen Ellyn.

The interesting and educational exhibit features prominent lawyers and cases in Illinois history, information about how the court system operates, and a general history of the judiciary's first 200 years of existence. Cases featured include *Block v. City of Chicago*, which concerned the first movie censorship laws, and lawyers featured include Ferdinand Barnett, one of the first African American attorneys licensed in Illinois. The exhibit also highlights the important role that the judicial branch has in upholding the rule of law, providing a forum for dispute resolution, and interpreting the law.

"Over the past two centuries, the judicial branch of the State of Illinois has evolved into one of the largest unified court systems in the United States. Although our work has had an important impact on the character and quality of life in Illinois, our contributions are little known beyond the legal community," Chief Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier said. "I am hopeful that this exhibition will help both students and the public at large develop a better understanding of our legal system's rich history and the central role played by the courts in preserving the principles on which our system of government is based."

The exhibit is one of several bicentennial activities sponsored by the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission to commemorate 200 years of the Illinois judicial branch. The Illinois Bicentennial Commission recognizes 2018 as an opportunity to celebrate the many cultural, economic, academic, and political contributions that Illinois and its residents have made to the nation and the world, and the Bicentennial of Illinois Law Exhibit showcases the contributions of the legal community to the history of Illinois.

"I am thrilled that this incredible exhibit will debut in my district, and I am looking forward to being there for the opening program on September 21," Justice Robert R. Thomas said. "This exhibit presents a rare opportunity for the public to look behind the scenes of our legal system, and to see the important role that the law and the courts have played throughout the history of our great State."

After its exhibition through October 26, 2018, at the College of DuPage, the Bicentennial Exhibit on Illinois Law will travel around the state to other college and university locations in 2018 and 2019.

The [Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission](#) was established in 2007 to assist and advise the Supreme Court of Illinois in acquiring, collecting, preserving, and cataloging documents, artifacts, and information relating to the Illinois judiciary. The Commission seeks to accomplish its work in partnership with historical and cultural institutions; bar associations; universities; law schools; and federal, state, and local agencies.

[College of DuPage](#) is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Serving approximately 25,000 students each term, College of DuPage is the largest public community college in the state of Illinois. The College grants seven associate degrees and offers more than 170 career and technical certificates in over 50 areas of study.

**(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: John Lupton, Executive Director of the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission at 217.670.0890 or [john.lupton@illinoiscourthistory.org](mailto:john.lupton@illinoiscourthistory.org))**